

NIAGARA - ON - THE - LAKE
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES



ANNUAL REPORT





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MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR & CAO

“The Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services is a hardworking, committed team. Our volunteer firefighters are dedicated to our residents, fire safety and prevention, and continuous learning and training initiatives. For example, in 2021, the Town’s volunteer firefighters participated in a two-day training initiative on the recognition and prevention of flashovers, which benefitted all experience levels within the department and supported firefighter safety and awareness in the event of a flashover situation. On behalf of Town Council, I am so proud of the work the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services Department does and appreciate each firefighter’s dedication to the safety and wellbeing of our community.”

– Lord Mayor Betty Disero



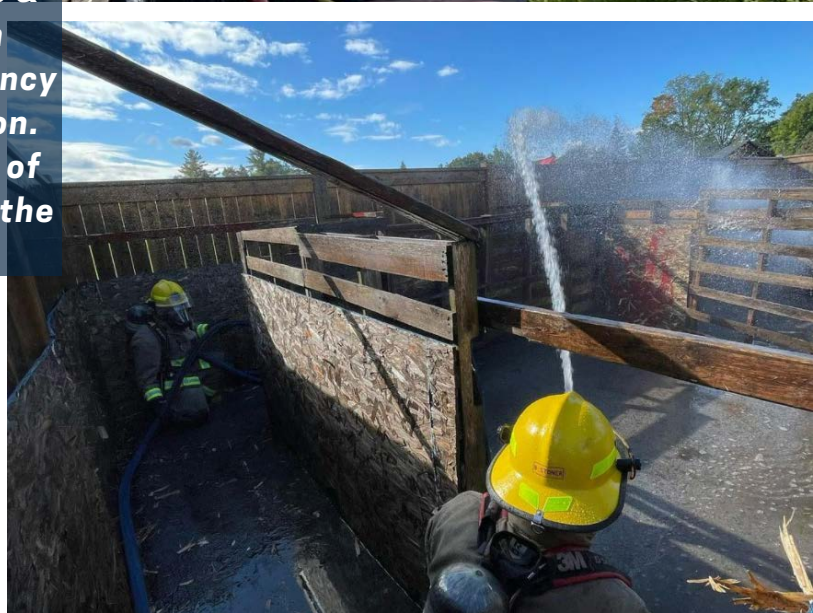
“Thank you to our devoted and resilient group of firefighters at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, whose commitment to safety shines through in all the work they accomplish. Not only does this team support one another and our community, but it also supports other fire departments around the world. Early in 2021, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department donated a 1990 Spartan reserve pumper and other used equipment (old fire hose, nozzles, analog radios with batteries) to the City of Sosua, Dominican Republic. This act of generosity and care demonstrates the supportive nature of our Fire Department and reflects well on the Niagara-on-the-Lake community.”

– CAO Marnie Cluckie

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



During 2021, Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services was involved in numerous events consisting of Emergency Response, Training, and Fire Prevention. The following sections highlight some of the many accomplishments made over the previous year.



INCIDENTS BY TYPE

727 

Total Incidents

This is the total number of incidents that Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters responded to throughout 2021; a 27% increase from 2020.

186 

Fire Alarms

This represents any call that was initially dispatched as a remote alarm activation from a security company, as well as alarm activations in both residential and commercial buildings.

101 

Fires

The total number of fires that Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters responded to in 2021; a 71% increase from 2020. These ranged from small rubbish fires, all the way to major structure fires.

50 

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters responded to 50 carbon monoxide (CO) calls in 2021. This number includes both incidents where CO was present, and false alarms where it was not. Firefighters use highly sensitive gas monitors to determine whether or not the harmful gas is present.

192 

Medical Calls

Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters responded to 192 medical emergencies in 2021. This includes all calls that were originally dispatched as a medical emergencies, as opposed to medical emergencies associated with other incidents.

123 

Motor Vehicle Collisions

Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters responded to motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) in a variety of locations, spanning from residential roads to the Queen Elizabeth Way. While on scene, firefighters perform a number of services, including vehicle extrication, spill control, and first aid.

75 

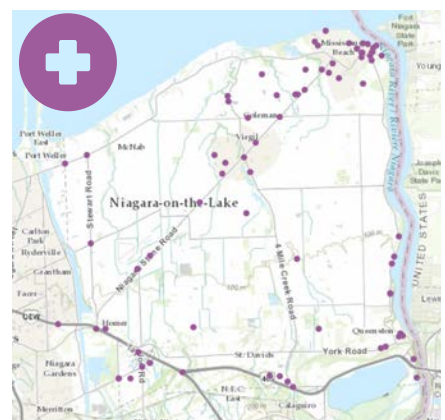
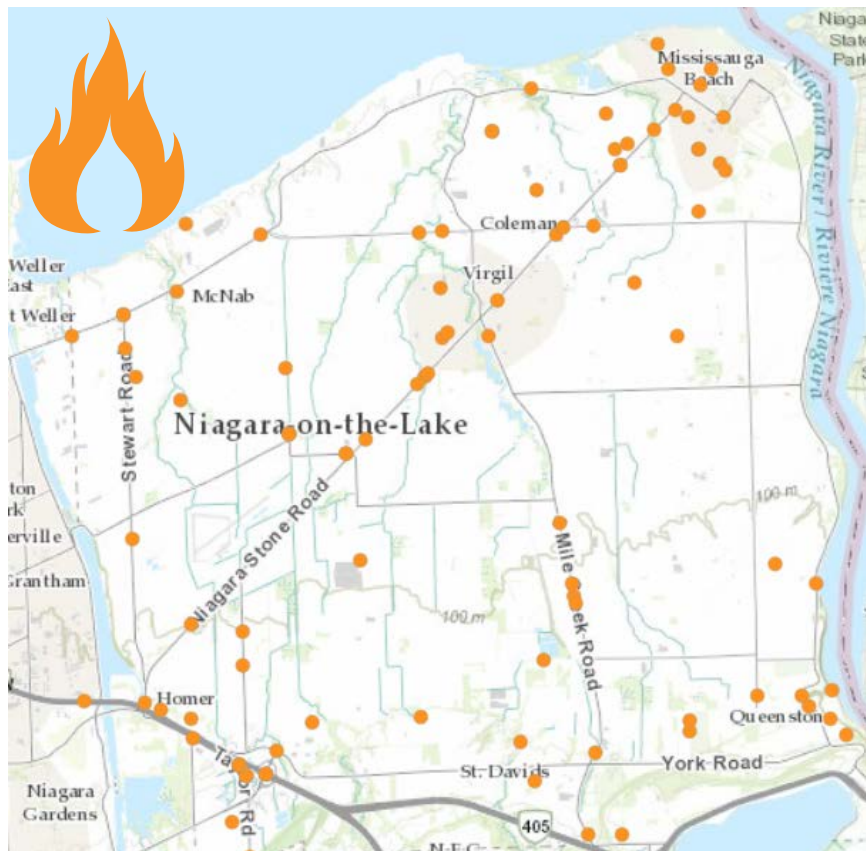
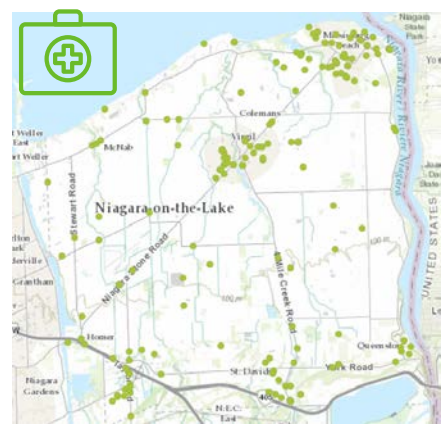
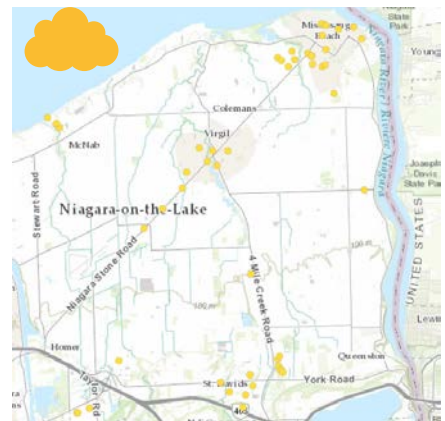
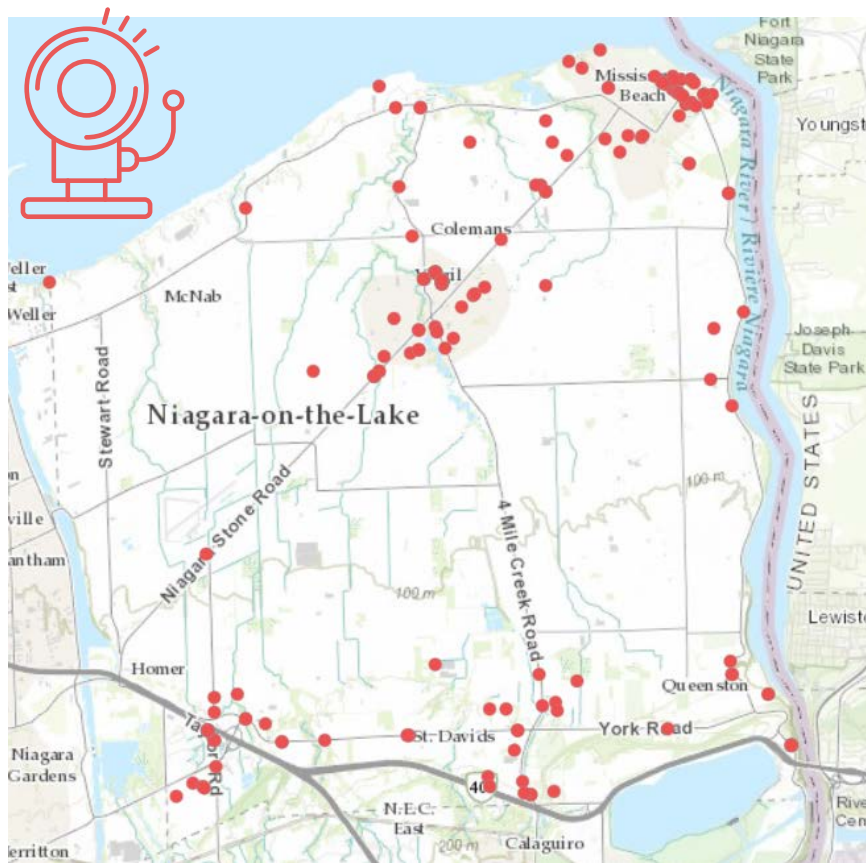
Assistance Calls

This number represents the calls where the assistance of Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters was requested that do not fall into any of the previous call categories. These calls can come from other first responder agencies, commercial businesses, or members of the public.



INCIDENT LOCATION BY TYPE

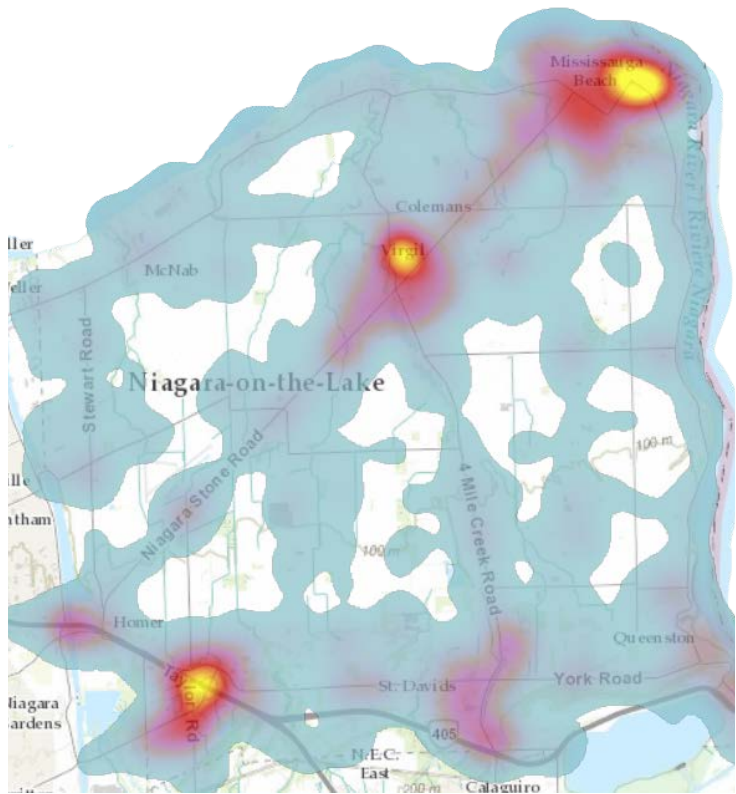
2021 HIGHLIGHTS



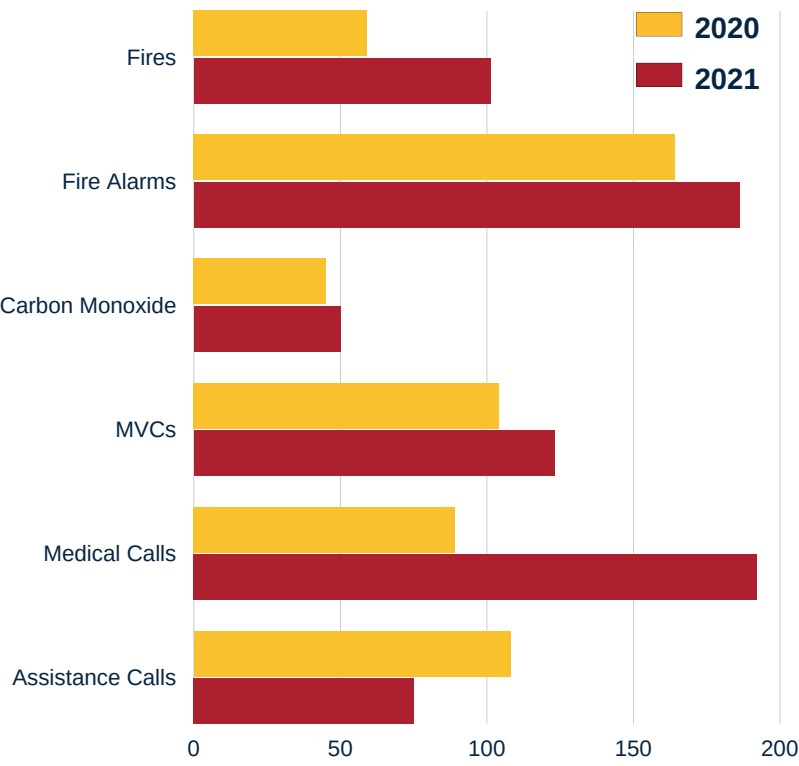
2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Heat Mapping

Building off the incident location data seen previously, this heat map includes every incident in 2021. Specifically, it identifies the frequency in which incidents occurred in different areas of the Town. The yellow and red spots on the map indicate areas with higher call volumes, as opposed to the less frequent areas that range from blue to colourless. It is important to note that all five stations are located very close to the darker coloured areas on the map.



Incident Frequency By Type



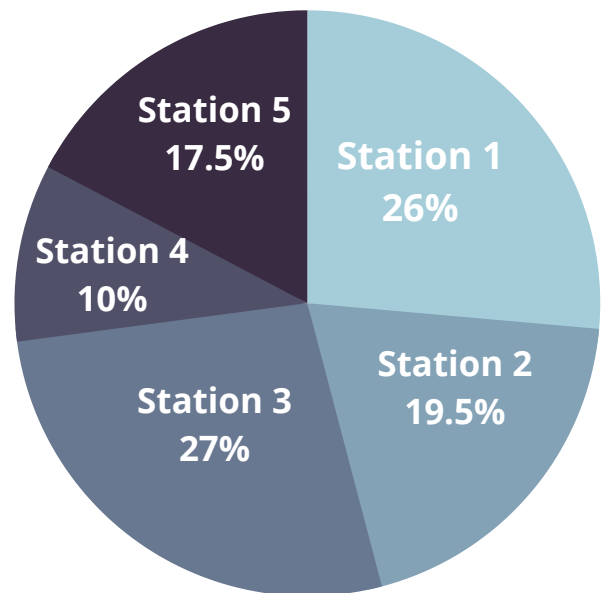
This chart displays how many calls by type Niagara-on-the Lake Fire & Emergency Services responded to in 2020 versus 2021. It's clear that 2021 was a busy year compared to 2020, as increases were seen in almost every call category.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Calls By Station

This chart displays the percentage of calls each of the five stations in Niagara-on-the-Lake responded to in 2021. The geographical area where an incident occurs determines which of the five stations will be dispatched. More than one station is dispatched to a single incident in many cases. The type and severity of an incident also play a role in determining which station(s) will be dispatched.



All of the data collected throughout the year allows for informed, data-driven decision-making within the department. However, the data presented is only a tiny snapshot of what was recorded in 2021.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



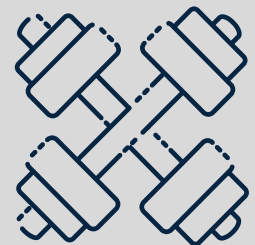
Participated in over **10,478 hours of training** and professional development for frontline firefighters.

Piloted a successful **Duty Crew** to address the increased call volume during peak summer months.



Sent a grand total of **1,713 fire apparatus** to emergency incidents across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Launched a popular firefighter **Health & Wellness Program** consisting of group fitness, mobility training, and fitness facility access.



Conducted **313 inspections** across Niagara-on-the-Lake for compliance with the Ontario Fire Code, representing a 27% increase from 2020.

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the men and women who comprise the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services (NOTLFES) department, I am proud to present our 2021 Annual Report. The Niagara-on-the Lake Fire & Emergency Services' vision is to be high-performing, progressive, and visionary in the provision of emergency services within our community. The exceptional teamwork that is displayed by our volunteer firefighters and staff has allowed for continued organizational growth in 2021.

Early in 2021, members from all areas of our department collaborated on the development of the 2021-2025 NOTLFES Strategic Plan. This strategic framework, although ambitious, has direct alignment with Council's 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan ensuring the delivery of customer service excellence while positioning our department as an emergency services leader.

As Fire Chief, I am incredibly proud of every member of our organization, as they work tirelessly toward continuous personal and organizational improvement. In many cases, we achieved (or even overachieved) our objectives and initiatives laid out for 2021. Are we a better department today than we were when we embarked on this evaluation and planning process? Absolutely. Now we look toward 2022 and beyond as we endeavour to build momentum toward a continuous improvement culture.

This report highlights many of the valuable initiatives and programs that our staff and volunteers contribute to daily, and presents data and information on the delivery of many of our critical services.

I am appreciative of the ongoing support we receive from Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Town Council, CAO Marnie Cluckie, and Town Staff, without which we would be unable to deliver the excellent service the public has come to expect. As we look forward to 2022, we are excited by the prospect of continued growth as we strive to continually improve.

Sincerely,

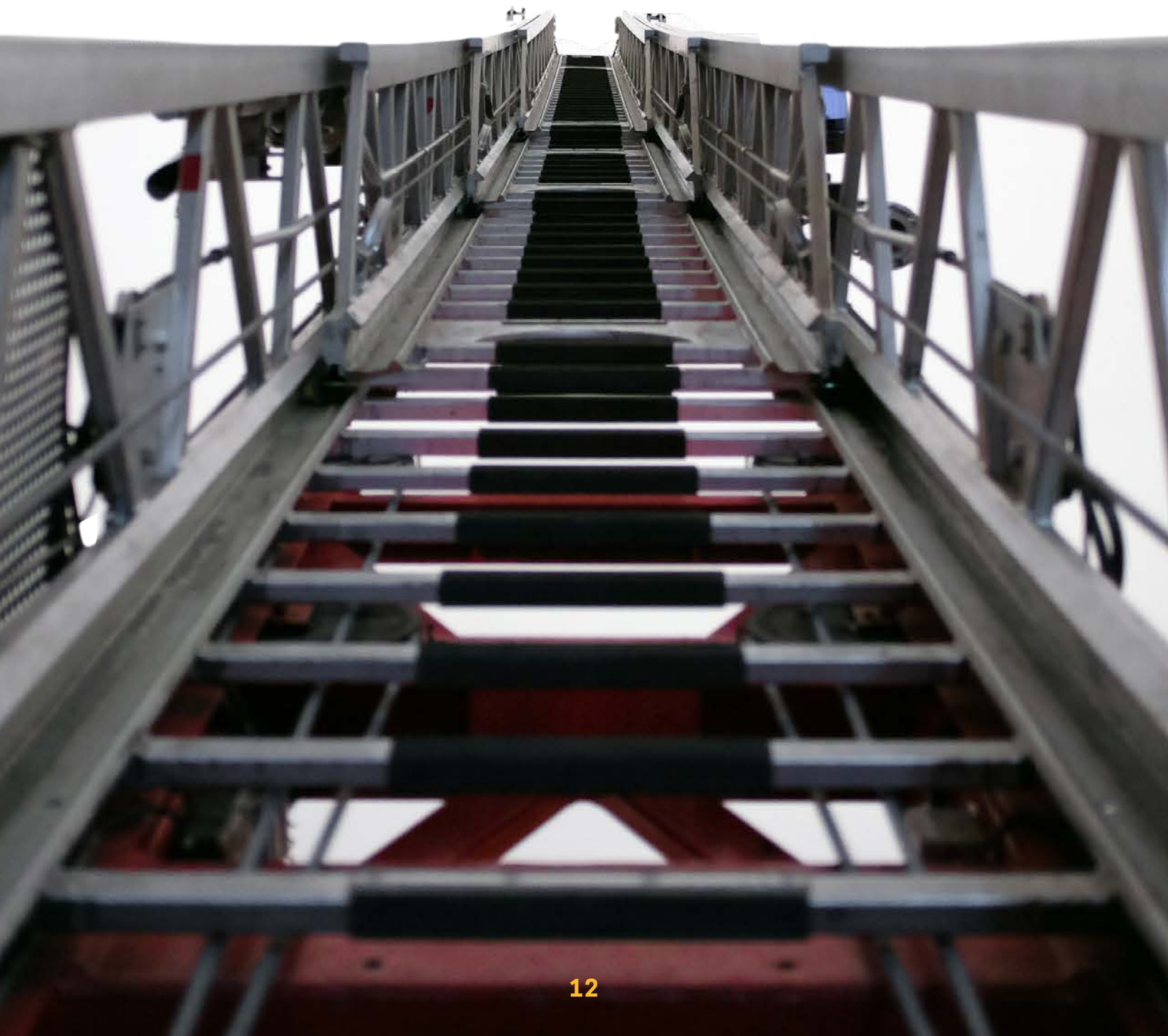
A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Nick Ruller.

Nick Ruller, MA
Fire Chief & CEMC

***"As Fire Chief, I am
incredibly proud of every
member of our
organization"***

YOUR FIRE SERVICE

COMMITMENT 🍁 TEAMWORK 🍁 COMMUNITY



YOUR FIRE SERVICE

STATION 1 - OLD TOWN



Mike Mitchell
Captain



Cort Day
District Chief



Dayton Kruitbosch
Asst. District Chief



Jason Edgecombe
Lieutenant



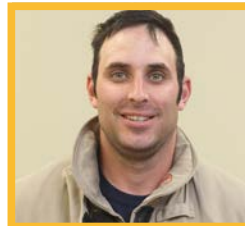
Daniel Ens
Firefighter



Ryan Papineau
Firefighter



Jeremy Froese
Firefighter



Mike Hassim
Firefighter



Todd Loney
Firefighter



Dario Pagogna
Firefighter



Karley McKeigan
Firefighter



Danielle Bley
Firefighter



Mark Polgrabia
Firefighter



Adam Ward
Firefighter

Station 1 in Old Town was the second busiest fire station in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2021, with 232 responses. The Old Town station is comprised of a District Chief, an Assistant District Chief, two Captains, two Lieutenants, and 12 Firefighters.

Built in 2000, this 10,000 square foot facility includes a large training room, office space for station officers, a self-contained breathing apparatus fill station, central storage, and three large double-length drive-through fire apparatus bays. In addition, this station houses a pumper, a 100-foot aerial ladder truck, and a light rescue squad.



YOUR FIRE SERVICE

STATION 2 - ST. DAVIDS



Dave Rigby
District Chief



Derek Rooney
Assistant District Chief



Colin Hunter
Lieutenant



Henry Boese
Firefighter



Katie Graziano
Firefighter



Stan Lament
Firefighter



Steve Lebrasseur
Firefighter



Rick Legros
Firefighter



Robert MacLeod
Firefighter



Arthur Martin
Firefighter



Mark Newman
Firefighter



Greg Pilitteri
Firefighter



Nick Poloniato
Firefighter



Steve Roy
Firefighter



Maddy Skubel
Firefighter



Eric Trostenko
Firefighter



Matt van der Zalm
Firefighter



Milan Vujovich
Firefighter



Station 2 in St. Davids responded to 172 incidents in 2021. The St.Davids station is comprised of a District Chief, Assistant District Chief, one Captain, one Lieutenant, and 16 Firefighters.

Built in 1984, this 7,000 square foot facility includes a training room, office, and three-bay apparatus area. This station houses 2 pumpers and a 3000-gallon tanker.

STATION 3 - VIRGIL



Darryl Janzen
Captain



Rob Read
Captain



Rick Gray
District Chief



Brad Disher
Lieutenant



Jim Reschke
Lieutenant



Aaron Cherney
Firefighter



Jason Disher
Firefighter



Rod Falk
Firefighter



Dean Filipetti
Firefighter



Hendrik Heikoop
Firefighter



Rob Konkle
Firefighter



Jason Meleskie
Firefighter



Derek Merza
Firefighter



Jason Plut
Firefighter



Jason Reynolds
Firefighter



Larissa Stemmle
Firefighter



Lucas Topic
Firefighter



Vito Trapani
Firefighter



Jeremy Werner
Firefighter



Dan Willms
Firefighter

Station 3 in Virgil was the busiest in Niagara-on-the-Lake, responding to 238 calls in 2021. The Virgil station is comprised of a District Chief, an Assistant District Chief, two Captains, two Lieutenants, and 19 Firefighters.

Built in 2008, this 10,500-square-foot facility includes a large training room, office space for station officers, a fitness room, and three large double-length drive-through fire apparatus bays. In addition, this station houses a pumper, a rescue-pumper, 3000-gallon tanker, and a utility squad.



YOUR FIRE SERVICE

STATION 4 - QUEENSTON



George Vandermeer
Captain



Dave Jones
Asst. District Chief



Dylan Skubel
Lieutenant



Braeden Bilinsky
Firefighter



Crispy Bottomley
Firefighter



Peter Cox
Firefighter



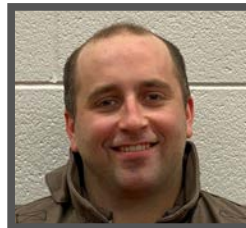
Lucas De Vries
Firefighter



Frank Digweed
Firefighter



Colin Dodd
Firefighter



Tanner Ferguson
Firefighter



Rob Glass
Firefighter



Spencer Glass
Firefighter



Bill Maartense
Firefighter



Chris Maartense
Firefighter



Deralyn MacKenzie
Firefighter



Tom Mussari
Firefighter



Louis Prue
Firefighter



Station 4 in Queenston responded to 87 incidents in 2021. The Queenston station is comprised of a District Chief, Assistant District Chief, one Captain, one Lieutenant, and 16 Firefighters.

Built in 1977, this 5,200 square foot facility includes a training room and two bay apparatus areas. In addition, this station houses a rescue-pumper and a utility squad.

YOUR FIRE SERVICE

STATION 5 - GLENDALE



Cam DeGrow
Captain



Leo Visser
District Chief



Sean Ferguson
Captain



Scott Maxwell
Lieutenant



Tyler Bessey
Firefighter



Graham Bettes
Firefighter



James Chandler
Firefighter



Alistair Harlond
Firefighter



Kevin Hnatiw
Firefighter



Brenda Lowes
Firefighter



Lorenzo Mazzuca
Firefighter



Kevin McClelland
Firefighter



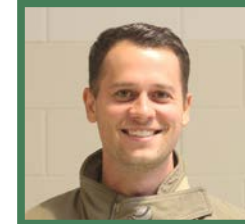
Lyle Renaud
Firefighter



Rebecca van der Zalm
Firefighter



Jerry Van Egmond
Firefighter



Chris Zerwes
Firefighter

Station 5 in Glendale responded to 181 incidents in 2019. The Glendale station is comprised of a District Chief, Assistant District Chief, a Captain, a Lieutenant and 14 Firefighters.

Built in 2005, this 9,000 square foot facility includes a training room, office space for station officers, and three sizeable drive-through apparatus bays.

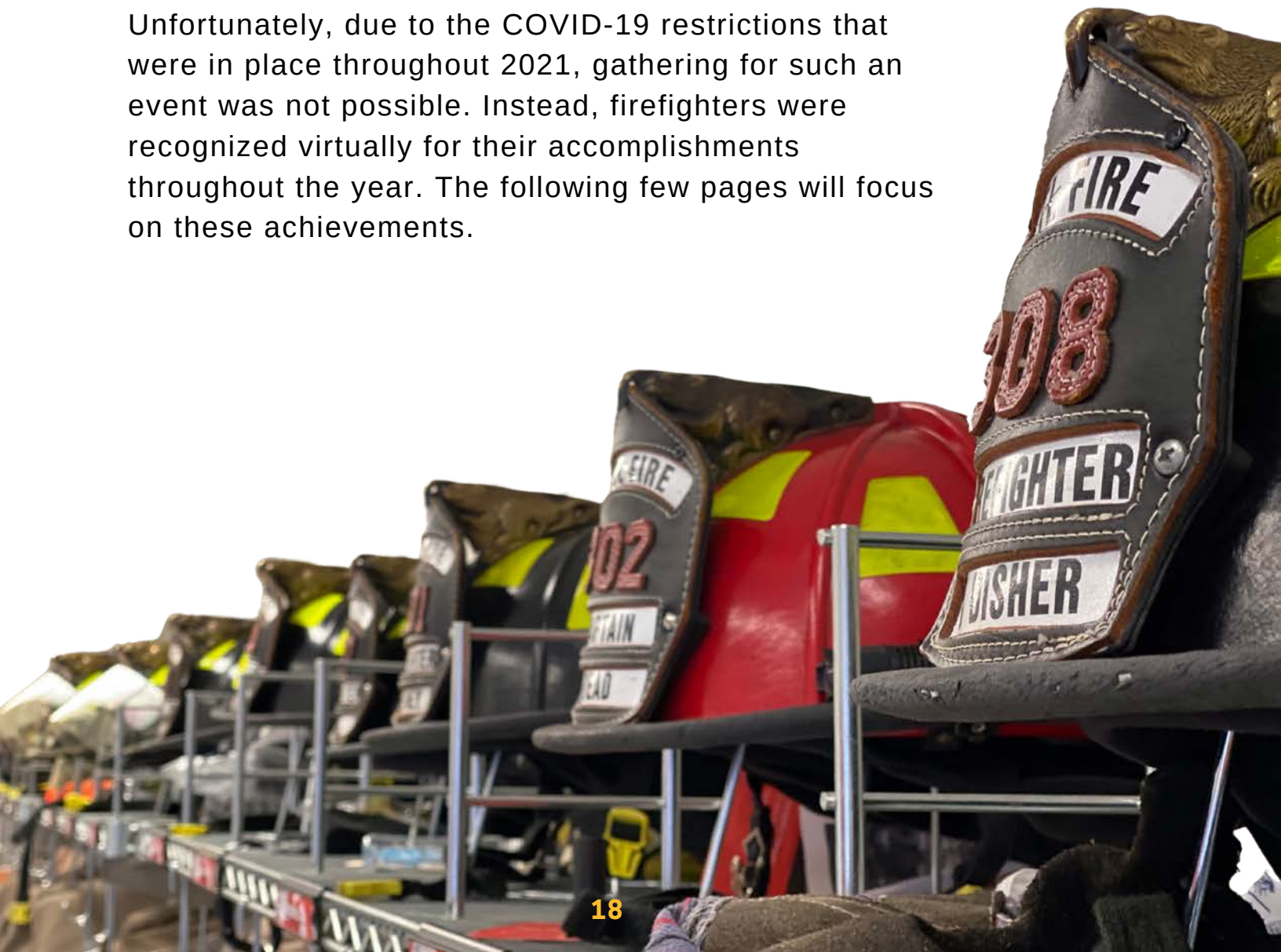


FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION



In support of our volunteer firefighters, the Lord Mayor and Council host an annual Appreciation Night to recognize the commitment and dedication that Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters put in towards protecting the Municipality. Historically, this evening is used as an opportunity for Council and department members to recognize significant milestones that firefighters have achieved over the previous year of duty.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place throughout 2021, gathering for such an event was not possible. Instead, firefighters were recognized virtually for their accomplishments throughout the year. The following few pages will focus on these achievements.



FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION

Years of Service Awards

Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services recognizes members with a Certificate of Membership and an additional sticker for every five years of service they dedicate to the department. Additionally, the government awards Federal Exemplary Service Medals (20 Years) and Provincial Long Service Medals (25 Years) to recognize the longevity of service that first responders dedicated to their communities. Below is a list of members from the department and the number of years they were recognized for in 2021.



5 Years of Service

Todd Loney - Station 1
Mark Polgrabia - Station 1
Colin Hunter - Station 2
Steve Lebrasseur - Station 2
Steve Roy - Station 2
Matt van der Zalm - Station 2
Derek Merza - Station 3
Jason Reynolds - Station 3
Braeden Bilinsky - Station 4
Peter Cox - Station 4
Lucas De Vries - Station 4
Dylan Skubel - Station 4
Graham Bettes - Station 5
Chris Zerwes - Station 5



10 Years of Service

Jason Plut - Station 3



25 Years of Service

Colin Dodd - Station 4



35 Years of Service

Deralyn MacKenzie - Station 4



The Federal Exemplary Service Medal is awarded to firefighters who have served as active members of their department for 20 years.



The Ontario Long Service Medal is awarded to firefighters who have served as active members of the Province for 25 years.

FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION

Promotions



Brad Disher was promoted to Lieutenant at Station 3 in May, 2021.

Along with acknowledging the length of service firefighters have dedicated, the department also recognizes any firefighters' promotions over the previous year. Traditionally, these members would have received recognition on our Firefighter Appreciation Night. The pictured members were promoted throughout the course of 2021.



Darryl Janzen was promoted to Captain at Station 3 in January of 2021.



Dylan Skubel was promoted to Lieutenant at Station 4 in June of 2021.

FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION



Colin Hunter was promoted to Lieutenant at Station 2 in January of 2021.

Retirements

In 2021, Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services saw one of its members retire. NOTLFES would like to thank Captain Mike Mitchell for his 21 years of dedication and service to the department.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

With the ever-changing climate brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Community Risk Reduction Division of Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire and Emergency Services faced some unique challenges throughout 2021. As traditional public education and community outreach programs were not possible, the Community Risk Reduction team got creative and found different ways to stay engaged with the community. The following pages will highlight some of their accomplishments over 2021.

12

**Public Education
Events**

15

**Fire Inspection
Orders Issued**

313

Fire Inspections

196

**Applications and
Plans Reviewed**

31

**Fire Safety Plan
Reviews**

7

Fire Investigations

Virtual Station Tours

The Community Risk Reduction Division offered “Virtual Station Tours” to classrooms at St. Michaels, St Davids, and Crossroads Elementary Schools, providing students with the in-person experience of visiting the Firehall.



Social Media

Social media has become a valuable public education tool for the Community Risk Reduction Division. Presently, social media can reach a large audience across multiple platforms. Staff utilized Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to spread fire safety-related educational material through in-house designed graphics and messages. The NOTL Fire & Emergency Services Twitter page received over 23,000 views in 2021, while the Department's Facebook and Instagram pages had over 130,000 views.

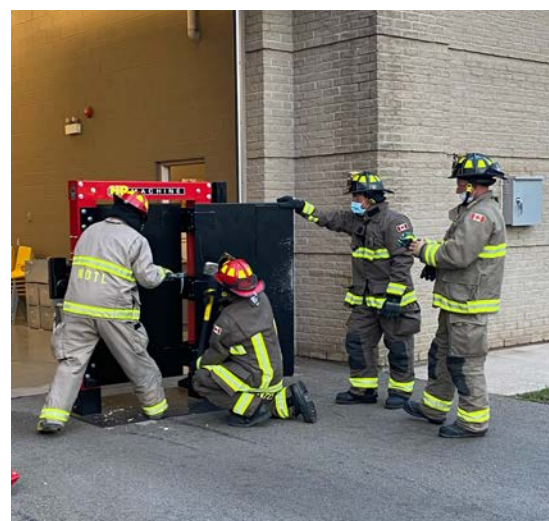
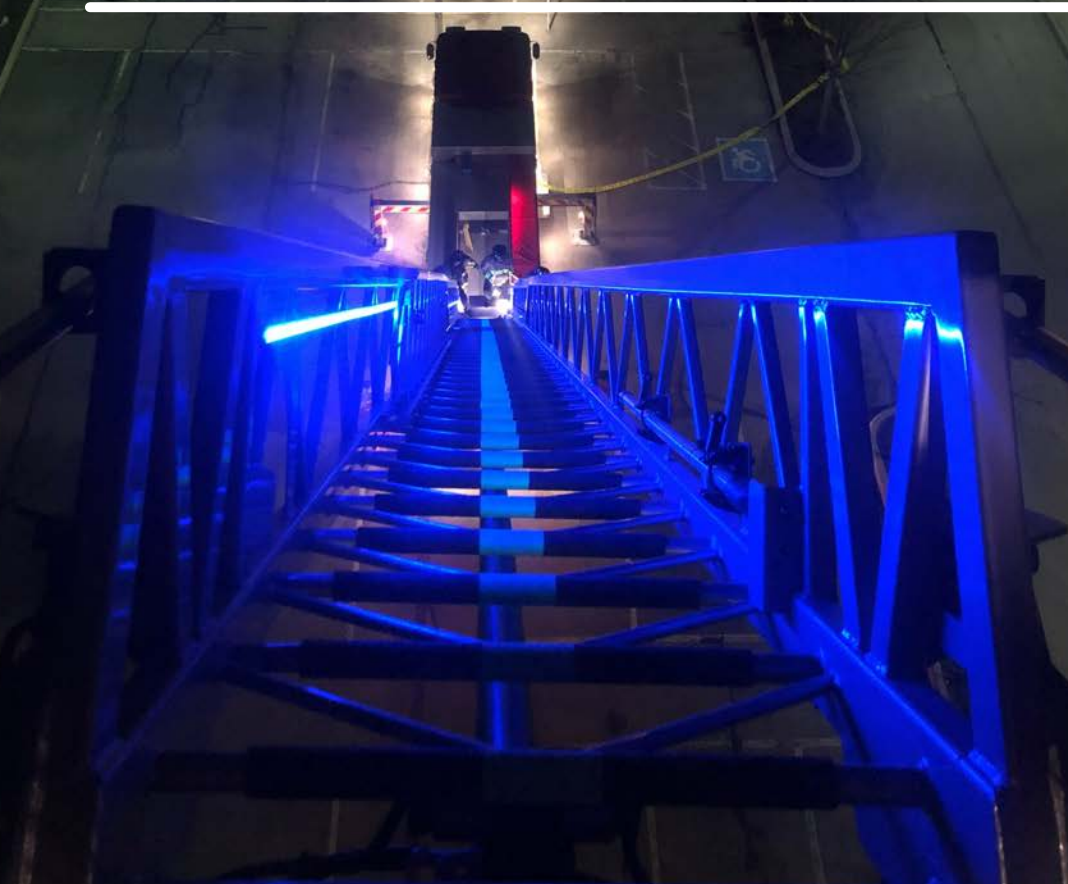
Fire Prevention Week



The theme for Fire Prevention week in 2021 was "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety". Throughout the week, public education material emphasized becoming familiar with the different sounds that your at-home smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can make, and what to do when you hear them. Alongside online educational content, the Community Risk Reduction Division prepared over 1,200 fire safety packages for students at local schools to take home. These packages included fire safety themed activity booklets, school supplies, and information sheets for parents. This creative initiative ensured that families still received important fire safety reminders and information.



TRAINING DIVISION





The Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire and Emergency Services Training Division provide ongoing education for all members, including firefighters, officers, and new recruits. The Training Division is responsible for developing and delivering firefighter and officer training curriculums, the delivery of training and certifications compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, as well as various specialized internal and external training and certification.

The NOTL Training Division is also committed to researching and developing suppression technologies within the department. Equipment is kept up to date and in excellent condition, while suppression techniques are kept current through constant research and training. Standard Operating Guidelines and technical guidance documents are also kept up to date by the Training Division.

Over the course of 2021, firefighters participated in a total of 10,478 hours of training. Firefighters logged a large portion of these hours during regular curriculum training, which takes place weekly on Monday evenings at respective stations. The training sessions cover a multitude of essential topics, including but not limited to medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents, fire ground operations, vehicle rescue, firefighter survival, and incident management. However, due to restrictions brought on by COVID-19, all regularly-scheduled training was suspended from the beginning of January through to the end of March. During this time, department members utilized online training platforms.

In addition to the regularly scheduled training, the most recent intake of firefighter recruits began their 300-hour training program in September.

ONLINE TRAINING

As mentioned previously, in-person training was not possible from January through to the end of March 2021 due to COVID-19. Therefore, to keep members engaged in weekly training, the department began utilizing online learning platforms. The first was the UL Fire Safety Research Institute, which offers information on a variety of topics presented via interactive learning modules. Over the first three months of 2021, multiple online UL modules were completed by department members.

Zoom was also a frequently used online platform during the months when in-person training was postponed. Several instructors from within NOTLFES developed virtual presentations delivered live to members. Over these three months, the Training Division conducted virtual presentations with members tuning in to watch them live. During the Zoom training sessions, topics covered were incident scene communications, fire dynamics, ground ladders, and rural water supply operations.



RURAL WATER SUPPLY OPERATIONS

In addition to the online learning and in-station curriculum training, firefighters had the opportunity to participate in a Rural Water Supply Operations training course over the summer. This hands-on course elaborated on the information from the virtual lesson and put the tactics to practice during two full-day classes. This course allowed firefighters to practice various techniques of moving water to fire scenes when no fire hydrants are available at or close to the scene. This scenario involves the use of Tanker trucks to deliver water to the scene, which is then relayed through a series of pump trucks and supply hoses. Firefighters participated in one of the two hands-on training days which was made possible through funding from an Ontario Fire College grant.



FLASHOVER DEVELOPMENT



Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters participated in a valuable training opportunity involving flashover development and associated suppression techniques. Trident Fire Training & Consultancy Inc. presented this flashover fire development and observation course and utilized the Draeger Swede Survival Phase 1 training unit. This system trains firefighters to recognize conditions that lead up to a deadly flashover event and learn techniques to delay this phenomenon in a controlled, repeatable setting. This course began with a 4-hour lecture to discuss fire science & dynamics, followed by two full days of live fire evolutions. Firefighters attended the lecture and one of the two hands-on training days.

BLUE CARD INCIDENT COMMAND

Additionally, NOTL Senior Officers participated in an online Blue Card Incident Command training program that focuses on Incident Command's eight functions using interactive modules.

2021-2022 RECRUITMENT



JOIN OUR TEAM



Our 2021-2022 recruitment drive began at the beginning of April and resulted in applications from many enthusiastic candidates. During the initial screening process, the training division sent invitations to qualified candidates to participate in the candidate aptitude test, which took place in May of 2021.

Those who were successful in the aptitude testing then participated in panel interviews designed to assess candidate qualifications and job compatibility better. Those successful in this stage were issued a conditional letter of employment, which marks the start of their tenure with Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire and Emergency Services.

To satisfy the conditions above, recruit candidates were required to complete the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT), administered by Firefighter Services of Ontario. Additionally, a satisfactory driver's abstract, police vulnerable sector check, and medical screening were required.

Once meeting the requirements above, recruits begin a 300-hour, 9-month training program in pursuit of becoming an active firefighter for Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services.



99 Applications Received



26 Interviews Conducted



42 Aptitude Tests Written



20 Conditional Offers Issued

JOIN OUR TEAM



The first half of the 300-hour training program began at the beginning of September and ran through until the end of November. During this time, 15 recruits were successfully certified in the following:

- Heart & Stroke Standard First Aid & Basic life support
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications Level I
- NFPA 1072 Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualification Awareness Level

The Second half of the program will wrap up in 2022, where recruits will work towards the following certifications:

- NFPA 1001 Level II
- NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Operations
- NFPA 1035 Fire & Life Safety Educator Level I

This thorough and challenging recruit program intends to ensure that recruits can do their job as safely and confidently as possible once they begin work at their respective stations.

It's important to note that the planning and execution of the recruit program would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of many members of our department. Specifically, Training Officer Darryl Janzen and District Chief Dave Rigby have invested countless hours in ensuring that the program and our recruits are as successful as possible.



Training Officer Darryl Janzen



District Chief Dave Rigby

FLEET & EQUIPMENT

Rescue 3

In 2021, Station 3 received a new Spartan Metro Star Rescue Pump truck. This apparatus replaced the previous Rescue 3, which was transitioned to Queenston to be used as a utility squad vehicle. New Rescue 3 is a combination rescue pumper equipped with auto extrication tools, medical supplies, a 1000-gallon water tank and suppression equipment.



Rescue 5

In late 2021 an RFP was issued for a Rescue Pumper to replace the current Pump 5 in Glendale. This project was awarded to Fort Garry Fire Trucks, with delivery expected by fall 2022. Outfitted with rescue tools and suppression equipment, the new Rescue 5 will respond to various emergencies in Glendale and surrounding areas. Pictured below is an early look at the cab and chassis of the new Rescue 5.



Tanker

In late 2021 an RFP was issued for a Tanker truck to aid in the efficiency of rural water operations. This project was awarded to Fort Garry Fire Trucks, with delivery expected by late 2022. This truck will be outfitted with a 3500-gallon tank, portable pond, and other firefighting equipment tailored to rural water shuttle operations.



SCBA Replacement

In March 2021, Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services conducted a wholesale replacement of their SCBA. This replacement involved the procurement of 66 Scott X3 SCBA, a portion of which are pictured above, along with individual C5 facepieces for each firefighter, 160 air cylinders, and a new compressed air fill station at Station One in Old Town. This project aligned with the 2021-2025 strategic plan objective of continuing to invest in quality PPE for department members.

Bunker Gear Replacement

As part of the bunker gear replacement project, NOTLFES replaced 25 sets of firefighter bunker gear. This initiative is part of a multi-year project to provide all members of NOTLFES with a second set of bunker gear.



INCIDENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE



ANNE STREET - 01/08/2021 - STRUCTURE FIRE



At 5:54 a.m. on January 8, 2021, firefighters from Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services was dispatched to Anne St. for reports of a vehicle on fire in the driveway of a residential Townhouse unit.

After arriving on scene, Chief Ruller assumed command and observed the extension of the fire into the soffits of the residence and the adjoining unit. Fast arriving crews quickly secured a water supply and proceeded to stretch additional hose lines applying water to the eaves of the building and exposures, and then the vehicle.

As additional resources arrived on scene, crews conducted searches of the residence, opening up concealed spaces to check for fire extension into the interior of the home. Crews were able to contain the fire and had it under control in approximately 40 minutes. In total, 58 personnel responding in 13 different fire apparatus contributed to the mitigation of what could have been a catastrophic event had the fire extended to the interior of the Townhouse units.

TOWNLINE ROAD - 02/09/2021 - STRUCTURE FIRE



TOWNLINER ROAD - 02/09/2021 - STRUCTURE FIRE

A mega-sized commercial woodworking and production facility in the area of Townline Rd. and Carlton St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake broke out in fire at approximately 2:48 p.m. on February 9, 2021. This facility adjoined three converted chicken barns and several Quonset huts, all utilized for storage.

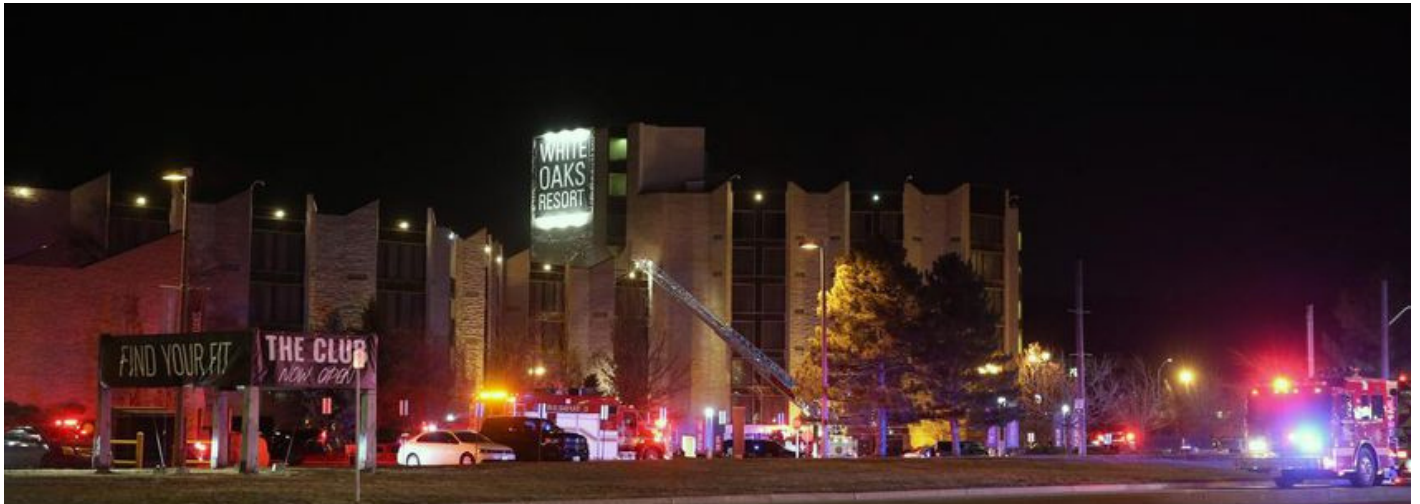
En route to 1238 Townline Road, the incoming apparatus witnessed a header of heavy black smoke from a distance and subsequently upgraded the alarm to include Rescue 4 and Pump 2. After arriving on scene, crews observed flames showing through the roof of a single-story block building on the side of the complex. Tenants of the storage facility added to the complexity of this incident by opening up units in an attempt to salvage belongings. On arrival, the crew from Pump 3 laid a supply line from Townline Road and then stretched a 65mm attack line and applied water through the man-door of the single-story block building.

Ladder 1 began aerial operations utilizing a master stream to knock down the visible fire through the roof of the main building. Several crews used 45mm handlines to contain the blaze from three sides of the structure, while others cleared hazards, including 420lb propane tanks from the structure's exterior.

Despite a well-coordinated attack, the fire breached the centre chicken barn and the wood furniture shop area resulting in rapid-fire growth. An emergency evacuation order was issued, withdrawing all interior crews and transitioning to a defensive posture on all adjoining structures. Crews shifted their focus on protecting the Quonset hut exposures and were confirmed to be out of the affected areas.

Crews continued to protect exposure building until transitioning to overhaul. The fire was under control at 5:15 p.m. A total of 18 Niagara-on-the-Lake Apparatus, two Thorold Apparatus, and over 86 personnel responded to this incident. Crews remained on scene for over 28 hours conducting overhaul operations and extinguishing hot spots.

WHITE OAKS - 03/21/2021 - ELEVATOR FIRE



On March 21, 2021, at 12:29 a.m., Niagara-on-the-Lake dispatched crews from Old Town, St. Davids, Virgil, Queenston, and Glendale to 253 Taylor Rd, White Oaks Resort and Spa, for a remote alarm activation.

While en route the first responding units confirmed the presence of smoke coming from the upper floors of the hotel tower and immediately upgraded the call. First crews indicated activation of the alarm in the fifth-floor elevator lobby. Crews proceeded to the floor, confirming the presence of fire in the elevator and began firefighting operations, quickly knocking down the main body of fire. Within five minutes of the water application, the interior team confirmed that the fire was under control.

Crews remained on scene until 8:35 a.m., conducting overhaul and ventilation to ensure building safety before turning it back over to the property owners. In total, 15 apparatus and 46 personnel responded to this incident, providing effective and efficient control of what could have been a catastrophic situation.

SIMCOE STREET - 05/18/2021 - STRUCTURE FIRE



At 3:46 p.m. on May 18, 2021, NOTLFES was dispatched to the area of Simcoe St. in Old Town with reports of a structure fire in a residential area.

With heavy black smoke observed on route to the call, Car 1 subsequently upgraded this to a 2nd alarm response. On arrival, crews observed a small school bus, a single-story garage/shed, roughly 40 feet of wooden fence, and the rear side of the neighbouring property all with significant fire involvement.

By 4:20 p.m., crews had knocked down the main body of fire. However, department members remained on scene, working for several hours after knock-down on hot spots and overhaul. A fire watch occurred overnight, and crews remained on the scene to ensure the fire did not rekindle. Overall, 14 apparatus and 70 firefighters helped suppress the flames and prevent further extension to neighbouring properties.

HEARTH CRESCENT - 10/10/2021- ROOM AND CONTENTS FIRE



On October 10, 2021, reports of a structure fire on Hearth Ct at 4:56 p.m. toned out firefighters from Niagara-on-the-Lake. Upon arriving on scene, a fire was visible through a second-floor window of a detached two-story home.

Crews from Station 3 arrived on the scene and stretched an attack line, performing a quick hit on the flames from the structure's exterior, knocking them down. Firefighters brought another line inside the home and were quickly able to suppress the remainder of the fire.

Quick response from firefighters limited the fire to the room of origin and prevented additional fire damage to the structure. Fifteen apparatus and 50 personnel responded to this incident which concluded at 7:55 p.m. when crews began to clear the scene.

LOOKING AHEAD - 2022 INITIATIVES

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - EMERGENCY REPORTING



November 2021 saw the department beginning a transition from Firehouse to Emergency Reporting, a Resource Management System (RMS) utilized by many fire departments across North America. This new RMS will provide a more streamlined approach to managing department records pertaining to incidents, equipment, maintenance, training, and more. This new system also offers analytics that will help provide NOTLFES with information to help make informed, data-driven decisions. Moving forward into 2022, the department aims to utilize this new resource to its total capacity, bringing forward detailed statistics that were not easily accessible in previous years. Below is just a small glimpse into the types of data that can be tracked and extracted through Emergency Reporting.

